

What is claimed:

1. A disposable container assembly suited for use as a child's drinking cup with a passive closure system, the assembly comprises a container portion, a lid portion, and a hinge, which joins the container portion and the lid portion; the hinge is joined to a location on a sidewall of the container portion and is also joined to the lid portion; the lid portion is provided with a top surface, from which depends a skirt that extends around the perimeter of the top surface, the top surface is also provided with a drinking spout, which extends upward from the top surface; the drinking spout is provided at its upper end with at least one opening; the passive closure system consists of the opening in the lid that is sufficiently sized so that, when a liquid beverage is unintentionally positioned at the opening, the surface tension of the liquid beverage is sufficient so that the liquid beverage does not flow through the opening under normal conditions but when a person intentionally desires to drink from the container liquid beverage flows through the opening.

2. A method for maintaining a pre-filled liquid beverage in a disposable container assembly suited for use as a child's drinking cup with a passive closure system comprising the step of:

- a) pre-filling the container assembly with the liquid beverage;
- b) closing a lid on the container, wherein the top surface of the lid is provided with a drinking spout, which extends upward from the top surface and wherein the drinking spout is provided at its upper end with at least one opening;
- c) using the passive closure system consisting of at least one opening in the drinking spout of the lid that is sufficiently sized so that, when the liquid beverage is unintentionally positioned at the opening, the surface tension of the liquid beverage is sufficient so that the liquid beverage does not flow through the opening;
- d) drinking from the drinking spout of the container assembly by a child;
- e) simultaneously, using the passive closure system so that when the child drinks from the container assembly, the surface tension of the liquid beverage is sufficiently overcome so that liquid beverage flows through the opening; and
- f) disposing of the container assembly after the pre-filled liquid beverage is emptied from the container assembly.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein the liquid beverage is water.